

STACY HAD A LITTLE SISTER

Old, Wendie All Ages
 This story is about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. An introductory note to parents is helpful.

A CHRISTMAS SONATA

Paulsen, Gary All Ages
 This is a timeless tale of a Christmas miracle that restores the faith of a child whose cousin is dying.

UNCLE VOVA'S TREE

Polacco, Patricia All Ages
 The family's Russian traditions at Christmas help when someone special is no longer there.

THE NEW KING

Rappaport, Doreen Ages 4+
 The actions of a young boy mirror the stages of grief. Included in this story is the beautiful Malagasy tale of why we die.

LOSING SOMEONE YOU LOVE

Richter, Elizabeth Ages 10+
 Young people share their experiences of having lost a brother or sister.

THE SADDEST TIME

Simon, Norma Ages 5 to 8
 A comforting poem weaves its way through three stories about the death of an uncle, a grandmother and a classmate.

A TASTE OF BLACKBERRIES

Smith, Doris Buchanan Ages 6 to 10
 A young boy shares the story of his friend's death.

A CANDLE FOR GRANDPA

Techner, David Ages 8+
 Beginning with the lighting of a yahrzeit candle, this story explains the Jewish funeral.

THE TENTH GOOD THING ABOUT BARNEY

Viorst, Judith Ages 4 to 8
 When his cat dies, a young boy holds a funeral and lists all the good things he remembers about Barney.

BADGER'S PARTING GIFTS

Varley, Susan Ages 4+
 Recalling warm and loving memories of Badger helps the community of animals to deal with their loss.

THE GREAT CHANGE

White Deer of Autumn All Ages
 A Native American girl asks questions about the meaning of death.

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Wilhelm, Hans Ages 3 to 8
 This beautiful story tells of a boy's relationship with his dog. When the dog dies, the boy finds comfort in the many memories he has.

GRANDAD BILL'S SONG

Yolen, Jane All Ages
 In this beautifully written book, family members and a friend share their feelings about Bill's death. Reactions are grippingly realistic.

This booklist was prepared at
 Cranston Public Library
 140 Sockanosset Cross Road
 Cranston, Rhode Island
 401-943-9080 x119

by
 Michelle A Vallee
 Coordinator of Children's Services
michelve@lori.state.ri.us

Cranston Public Library

COPING WITH LOSS

A Learn @ your Library

Booklist for children

and their families

The loss of a loved one causes great pain and often results in a series of traumatic changes. A child faces these painful adjustments with little or no experience, which frequently causes overwhelming feelings of fear and aloneness.

While written for specific ages, the following books may offer comfort to everyone involved.

Be assured that these titles and others on family issues are available through the Rhode Island Library system.

THE TWO OF THEM

Aliki Ages 4 to 8
A young girl tells about her beloved grandfather's life and death.

NADIA THE WILLFUL

Alexander, Sue Ages 5 to 8
Temper tantrums are Nadia's only release for her anger and pain. She learns that talking about her brother's death eases her rage.

PABLO REMEMBERS

Ancona, George Ages 8+
El Dia de Los Muertos is a Mexican tradition that helps a young boy celebrate the memory of his beloved grandmother.

WHAT WE DO WHEN SOMEONE DIES

Arnold, Caroline Ages 10+
An explanation of why we die is followed by information on funerals, memorials and different beliefs about death.

BOOKS TO HELP CHILDREN COPE WITH SEPARATION AND LOSS

Bernstein, Joanne E. Adult
This library reference book is a resource for titles that will help families cope with situations of loss and death.

WHEN I DIE, WILL I GET BETTER?

Breebaart, Joeri Ages 4 to 8
This true story is written by a young boy to help express his feelings and come to an understanding of his younger brother's death.

FOX SONG

Bruchac, Joseph Ages 7+
A young Native American girl remembers all her grandmother taught her. The author wrote this story based upon his own family's experience.

THE BELLS OF SANTA LUCIA

Cazzola, Gus Ages 4+
The ringing bells in Tuscany remind a child of how much she misses her grandmother. This Italian story shows the universal experience of grief.

EVERETT ANDERSON'S GOODBYE

Clifton, Lucille Ages 4 to 8
When his father dies, Everett goes through the stages of grief. Simply and thoughtfully told.

I HAD A FRIEND NAMED PETER

Cohn, Janice Ages 5 to 8
A kindergarten class learns about dying, funerals and the burial process.

MOLLY'S ROSEBUSH

Cohn, Janice Ages 5+
A rosebush is planted in remembrance of a child lost through miscarriage.

WINTER HOLDING SPRING

Dragonwagon, Crescent Ages 7 to 10
As she learns about cycles of life, growth and death in nature, a young girl adjusts to the loss of her mother.

MY GRANDPA DIED TODAY

Fassler, Joan Ages 5 to 8
David grieves when his beloved grandfather dies, but finds joy in remembering the times they shared.

POPPY'S CHAIR

Hesse, Karen Ages 3 to 8
A favorite chair eases a young girl's sadness of missing her grandfather.

THE PRINCESS IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN

Heymans, Annemie Ages 10+
After the death of a parent, two children help each other cope with family issues.

LOSING UNCLE TIM

Jordan, MaryKate Ages 7 to 12
A beloved uncle dies of AIDS. The message is one of reassurance, understanding and courage.

GERALDINE'S BLANKET

Keller, Holly Ages 2 to 6
Geraldine Pig is attached to her baby blanket. As it wears out, Geraldine must adjust to the changes.

LEARNING TO SAY GOODBYE

LeShan, Eda J. Ages 10+
Discussions focus on the questions and fears that a child has when a parent dies.

COME BACK, GRANDMA

Limb, Sue Ages 4+
Bessie misses her grandmother very much. When she grows up and has her own daughter, she is delighted that the baby looks just like grandma!

SOME OF THE PIECES

Madenski, Melissa Ages 5+
Remembering both the silly and the serious things about their dad helps two children deal with the pain of missing him. This story includes the tradition of cremation and spreading the ashes.

LIFETIMES

Mellonie, Bryan All Ages
Everything has a beginning and an ending. What happens in between is a lifetime. Effective illustrations and simple words offer a clear explanation of death at any age.

TOO FAR AWAY TO TOUCH

Newman, Leslea Ages 4+
An uncle explains to his niece that when he dies he'll be like the stars: too far away to touch, but close enough to see.